

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed July 27, 2006. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 6-20 were pending in this Application. Claims 6-20 were rejected. Claims 6, 15, 18, and 19 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,343,549 issued to Shizurou Tokiwa ("Tokiwa") in view of U.S. Patent 5,947,023 issued to Wolfgang Bohrer et al. ("Bohrer et al."). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits the cited art combinations, even if proper, which Applicant does not concede, does not render the claimed embodiment of the invention obvious.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the references cited by the Examiner must disclose all claimed limitations. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974). Furthermore, according to § 2143 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

The Examiner stated that the claims as amended in the last response still can be interpreted to include the arrangement as disclosed by Bohrer. Applicants therefore amended the independent claims to define that each drive unit comprises a functional control unit which only controls that specific drive unit as shown in Figure 1 of the present application.

As stated before, Bohrer discloses an entirely different concept than the present application in which a first and second control unit control all drive units through dedicated buses. Furthermore, there exists no communication between the control units and Bohrer does not suggest such a communication because these control units each serve a different purpose. Thus, Tokiwa in view of Bohrer do not render the present independent claims obvious.

Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent Claims are allowable at least to the extent of the independent Claim to which they refer, respectively. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the dependent Claims. Applicants reserve the right to make further arguments regarding the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), if necessary, and do not concede that the Examiner's proposed combinations are proper.

Request for Continued Examination

Applicant encloses a Request for Continued Examination and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the \$790.00 fee to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

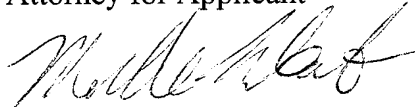
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicant believes there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney, Andreas Grubert, at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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